

1 Thess.1:6... in spite of **severe suffering**, you **welcomed the message** with the joy given by the Holy Spirit  
 :7 and so you became models to believers ... **your faith in God has become known everywhere.**  
 1Thess. 2:18... We wanted to see you... but **Satan stopped us...** so we sent Timothy... to strengthen you...  
 so no one would be unsettled by these **trials**. You know quite well that we were **destined for them.**

## GOD HAS BEEN WORKING; Outreach, Equipping, Remembering, Trials

**Outreach:** The Catch of a Lifetime! Joe; seeking, saved, growing

We called him "Jeff" in our September letter. **Joe was in distress** when he went on a charter with **Capt. Dan Keating**.

But he was so eager to know about the gospel that Dan said, *"Holy salmon! This guy is interested! How can I share the good news with him?"* Joe next attended a Men's Breakfast in September where he described **Dan's impact in his life**... almost ready to receive Christ



Dan, Joe

At the Jan. 22 WILD GAME DINNER, he told us "the rest of the story" *"Five miles offshore, after some of the best fishing of my life, all by myself, I finally surrendered my life to Christ... poured out my heart to God all the way back to shore. It was like a bilge pump was draining all the crud from my soul. I still have serious challenges; need to grow in many areas. But God is changing my life as I serve Him each day."* His sons beamed as he described these changes. Our guests were deeply moved by his story.

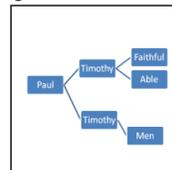


Joe, Kids, Dan K

The other **330 men at the Dinner** heard helpful **fishing tips** and **powerful testimony** from Capt. Dan, **how to receive Christ** and be **equipped to fish for men** more effectively. Many expressed interest in taking **steps of faith**.

**Equipping:** Experiencing God's Presence and Power, for a Lifetime; Chain saws and God's word

"Have you tried to cut down a tree with a **chain saw** that had **no fuel**?" "How can we experience, and explain, how to be **empowered** by the Holy Spirit, moment by moment, **for a lifetime**?" That's what 12 guys are exploring at 6am and 7 pm on Wednesdays. They all agreed that they mostly "try hard" to live the Christian life in their own strength. **They are exploring how to let God work through them.** Each day they are asking, "How does the power of the **Holy Spirit** relate to: **family, fitness, friends, finances, fun and fruit**?" "Whom does God want me to **share this principle with**?" As they explore these concepts in the word and in transferable tools, they are able to pass them on to others who can pass them on...



**Remembering:** First date, 37 years ago. Called to full-time ministry, 36 years ago

Ginger and I recently **celebrated our first date, Jan. 19, 1973**, my senior year at Hope College. I remembered how I was **struck by Ginger's** humor, insightfulness, **love for God, people, and ministry**. Our first "date" was being part of a team sharing testimonies at a church. Many "dates" after that followed the same pattern; sharing God's love with people in the fraternity, at work, sports, Bible studies, retreats, one to one. I was so **grateful that Ginger could serve with me** in ministering to couples, co workers, or kids, in church or far from church, **There just isn't anyone quite like Ginger.**

**Jan 19, 1974**, I was working in construction, **asking God what He wanted to do with my life**. More and more doors were opening for ministry each day, opportunities were so large, but time windows were so small. Jan. 19, **God challenged me** with this question, "Kurt there are many people building houses for people. But **who is building people for houses?** Who has a blueprint? Who will equip them to allow ME to live through every "room" in their lives?" My prayer: "Lord, where can I get the **best equipping for building people?**" His answer was clear. By Feb. 15, 1974, I was at CCC staff training. I asked them, "Will you equip me to minister at universities, so I can someday come back to my hometown to minister to the community I love?" Ginger and I married in 1974, served in campus ministry until 1982, and in Grand Rapids ever since. How encouraging to see how **God has been handcrafting Ginger and me for these days.**

**Trials:** When God working, so is the enemy... Kelly, Ginger, Kurt, Kurt Jr.

God's word teaches that **when He is active, so is the enemy**. This is clearly seen in 36 years of ministry, and last month. **God worked mightily** in the Jan. 22 Outreach and other areas... Then **we experienced some real challenges:** Jan. 23 **Kurt**; muscle inflammation, weakness, ruptured ligament in his hand, and more, for several weeks. **Ginger**; intense pain, weakness, couldn't keep food in her. **Kelly**; severe pain in her abdomen, still can't keep solid food down, trips to urgent care and other doctors, can't drive or work, more specialists this week.. **Kurt Jr**; pipes broke, wrecking much of their progress on flooring, walls, ceilings etc. just as they prepare to leave for S. Korea. These set us back in many ways. We know **many others are facing severe challenges**. They seem to raise questions about God's promises. Are they enemy attacks, trials, or just ... life? All I know for sure; when we **trust and obey, give thanks** in all things, and **pray for each other, God brings good even out of the worst challenges**. Many people have been thanking us for being honest about struggles, asking us to help them pray by keeping them informed. We are already seeing progress in some areas...

*Thank you for standing with us!*

*Kurt and Ginger*

### PRAYER REQUESTS;

- +**Praise!** strong year end giving helped us with ministry and medical needs
- Healing, restoration for family, health, homes, "catching up" in crucial areas
- Overflowing resources for maximum fruit and life
- + 3/12, Lance Brew Event, Outreach, Kurt, Rescued Story, **←see website...**
- + 3/13, Men's conference, 1000 men? Kurt, seminar, discipleship, **←** "
- + 4/17, 18 Men's Retreat, Leaving A Living Legacy, + 5/15 ? Kurt, Carrie leave to teach E.S.L., S. Korea, for a year
- + Completing the writing and launching, then field tests of "Survival/Adventure"



Kelly, David, Rosa Kurt Jr. Carrie

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